



Reference No. 6.37

# WAGE RATES INDEXES : MARCH 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

## MAIN FEATURES

- No increase was recorded in the weighted average minimum weekly wage rates for Australia for adult males and adult females in March 1976.
- In the twelve months ended March 1976 the weekly wage rates increased by 16.6 per cent for adult males and 20.3 per cent for adult females. These rates were less than half the peak annual increases of 34.8 per cent for adult males and 43.2 per cent for adult females recorded in March 1975.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for March 1976 and corresponding figures for some earlier months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work

(excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. Because the indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from *salaries*, those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for July 1974 and subsequent months are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

TABLE 1. - WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES  
 ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males (b)					Adult females (c)				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates	Annual change(d)	Index Nos.	Wage rates	Index Nos.	Wage rates	Annual change(d)	Index Nos.	Wage rates	Index Nos.
	\$	%	(1954 = 100) (e)	(cents)	(1954 = 100) (e)	\$	%	(1954 = 100) (e)	(cents)	(1954 = 100) (e)
1975 -										
March	107.35	34.8	380.1	268.53	379.6	95.85	43.2	481.4	241.60	481.6
April	107.53	25.9	380.8	268.99	380.2	96.44	37.8	484.4	243.11	484.6
May	112.34	20.4	397.8	279.97	395.7	101.87	32.0	511.7	256.80	511.9
June	112.72	18.4	399.1	280.94	397.1	103.90	28.8	521.9	261.90	522.0
July	112.94	16.0	399.9	281.48	397.9	104.35	24.9	524.2	263.04	524.3
August	113.20	15.5	400.8	282.15	398.8	104.59	21.2	525.4	263.66	525.5
September	117.50	15.1	416.1	292.90	414.0	108.17	22.4	543.3	272.67	543.5
October	117.57	13.2	416.3	293.08	414.2	108.19	20.3	543.4	272.71	543.6
November	117.58	12.1	416.3	293.11	414.3	108.22	19.6	543.6	272.79	543.7
December	117.77	11.6	417.0	293.60	415.0	108.39	18.4	544.5	273.23	544.6
1976 -										
January	117.83	11.4	417.2	293.75	415.2	108.40	16.8	544.5	273.25	544.7
February	125.19	18.1	443.3	312.08	441.1	115.31	22.9	579.2	290.66	579.4
March	125.19	16.6	443.3	312.10	441.1	115.31	20.3	579.2	290.66	579.4

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes above. (b) Excludes rural industry. Hourly rates also exclude shipping and stevedoring. The former is not included in the wage rates index and for the latter definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction. (d) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (e) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.



TABLE 2. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (d)	169.98	122.26	160.83	118.70	119.70	136.91	154.66	25.6	547.6
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	114.23	120.07	125.91	117.49	114.52	118.91	117.42	15.0	415.8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	114.74	115.77	115.98	114.06	117.39	111.55	115.30	19.8	408.3
Food, drink and tobacco	121.34	119.54	125.68	117.22	123.90	117.70	121.35	18.3	429.7
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	121.10	114.57	125.18	113.76	115.03	113.86	118.88	16.3	420.9
Paper, printing, etc.	122.70	129.52	138.20	126.36	124.94	123.02	126.78	15.7	448.9
Other manufacturing	119.91	120.70	121.25	118.65	117.64	114.92	119.92	16.1	424.6
All manufacturing groups	117.11	119.80	125.43	117.72	117.14	117.58	118.92	16.1	421.1
Building and construction (e)	136.63	138.44	127.79	134.59	127.76	126.43	134.10	14.2	474.8
Railway services	114.00	109.31	130.04	114.21	103.95	114.71	116.10	13.9	411.1
Road and air transport	128.62	120.89	120.86	119.55	121.09	123.55	124.09	14.8	439.4
Shipping and stevedoring (f)	155.55	156.83	149.46	147.79	157.46	153.45	153.90	29.6	544.9
Communication	151.01	151.81	150.63	149.86	151.51	147.07	150.98	14.3	534.6
Wholesale and retail trade	125.37	127.49	125.41	118.57	121.55	127.20	125.07	17.5	442.8
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	130.27	125.13	132.12	117.77	121.52	133.68	127.47	19.3	451.4
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	117.98	115.66	117.79	111.96	110.59	110.14	115.95	14.9	410.6
All industry groups (g)	125.72	124.45	129.41	122.02	121.22	124.74	125.19	16.6	443.3

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (e) The weekly rates used in the index for occupations specified in the National Building Trades Construction Award include the weekly base rate of pay, the special allowance and the industry allowance. (f) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers. (g) Excludes rural industry.

TABLE 3. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	112.27	118.90	113.65	105.59	109.56	113.86	113.71	17.9	571.2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	108.37	106.93	107.79	107.96	110.11	101.77	107.57	22.1	540.4
Food, drink and tobacco	116.02	115.97	115.29	106.18	102.39	111.78	114.31	20.1	574.2
Other manufacturing	113.58	115.63	114.19	107.17	111.00	109.71	113.77	18.5	571.5
All manufacturing groups	111.33	111.31	111.42	106.70	108.49	107.38	110.89	20.2	557.0
Transport and communication	118.11	119.55	124.38	120.40	115.00	125.15	119.70	16.8	601.2
Wholesale and retail trade	123.22	127.16	121.71	113.19	117.72	116.95	122.52	21.0	615.4
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	121.59	120.54	120.49	111.89	108.20	117.13	119.48	23.4	600.2
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	113.63	110.69	111.65	105.85	102.89	105.61	111.08	17.7	558.0
All industry groups (d)	115.98	115.85	117.09	110.09	111.54	111.99	115.31	20.3	579.2

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.



TABLE 4. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of —	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (b)									
1975 —									
March	108.04	106.79	110.45	105.81	101.55	107.51	108.75	105.65	107.35
April	108.18	107.01	110.71	105.89	101.84	107.61	108.90	105.88	107.53
May	112.80	112.14	115.89	110.34	106.11	112.47	113.63	110.78	112.34
June	113.08	112.73	116.02	111.01	106.35	112.59	113.79	111.41	112.72
July	113.18	113.09	116.32	111.06	106.76	112.76	114.02	111.62	112.94
August	113.14	113.11	116.40	111.06	110.63	112.76	114.02	112.21	113.20
September	118.29	117.05	121.17	114.93	111.32	116.77	118.98	115.71	117.50
October	118.34	117.10	121.18	115.06	111.64	116.78	118.98	115.86	117.57
November	118.35	117.10	121.20	115.05	111.65	117.05	119.00	115.87	117.58
December	118.36	117.15	121.55	115.11	113.30	117.06	119.06	116.21	117.77
1976 —									
January	118.34	117.15	121.62	115.10	113.97	117.49	119.08	116.33	117.83
February	125.72	124.45	129.41	122.02	121.17	124.74	126.46	123.64	125.19
March	125.72	124.45	129.41	122.02	121.22	124.74	126.47	123.65	125.19
ADULT FEMALES (c)									
1975 —									
March	96.86	94.79	98.05	94.05	92.42	96.00	92.31	98.92	95.85
April	97.61	95.30	98.42	94.16	93.64	96.21	92.75	99.66	96.44
May	102.42	102.83	101.93	98.42	96.95	99.86	96.20	106.80	101.87
June	105.02	104.89	102.88	99.29	98.23	100.97	98.66	108.44	103.90
July	105.27	105.08	104.81	99.43	99.60	101.22	99.02	108.97	104.35
August	105.35	105.08	104.81	99.52	103.50	101.32	99.02	109.43	104.59
September	109.07	108.77	108.64	103.01	104.76	104.98	102.49	113.10	108.17
October	109.07	108.77	108.64	103.17	104.85	104.98	102.49	113.13	108.19
November	109.07	108.77	108.90	103.18	104.88	104.98	102.55	113.14	108.22
December	109.07	108.90	110.06	103.22	104.88	105.27	102.63	113.40	108.39
1976 —									
January	109.07	108.90	110.06	103.36	104.88	105.27	102.63	113.42	108.40
February	115.98	115.85	117.09	110.09	111.54	111.99	109.19	120.62	115.31
March	115.98	115.85	117.09	110.09	111.54	111.99	109.19	120.62	115.31

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Excludes rural industry. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Godfrey Laurie on 52 6573 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



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